

**3. IN THE CLAIMS**

1 – 7 (Cancelled)

8. (Original) A can trimmer apparatus comprising two blades and an adjustment mechanism to adjust a gap between the blades, wherein the adjustment mechanism is accessible from the exterior of the trimmer apparatus.

9. (Original) The can trimmer apparatus of Claim 8 further comprising:  
a first shaft on which one of the blades is mounted;  
a housing connected to the first shaft;  
a second shaft connected to the second blade at least partially contained in the housing; and  
wherein the adjustment mechanism comprises an adjustment screw accessible from the exterior of the trimmer apparatus, wherein rotation of the adjustment screw moves the second shaft in a direction along its length to adjust the gap between the blades.

10. (Original) The can trimmer apparatus of Claim 9 further comprising a locking mechanism to substantially maintain the position of the second shaft once the gap is adjusted.

11. (Original) The can trimmer apparatus of Claim 8 wherein the gap is about 8-25% of the thickness of the metal of a can.

12. (Original) The can trimmer apparatus of Claim 8 wherein the gap is about 8-15% of the thickness of the metal of a can.

13. (Original) The can trimmer apparatus of Claim 8 wherein the gap is about 8-10% of the thickness of the metal of a can.

14. (Original) The can trimmer apparatus of Claim 8 further comprising a sealed gear housing.

15. (Original) The can trimmer apparatus of Claim 14 wherein the housing is sealed by o-rings.
16. (Original) The can trimmer apparatus of Claim 8 further comprising spur gears.
17. (Original) A can trimmer apparatus comprising:  
a first blade mounted on a first shaft; and  
a second blade mounted on a second shaft, wherein the first and second shafts are about the same mass.
18. (Original) The can trimmer apparatus of claim 17 further comprising:  
an adjustment mechanism to adjust a gap between the first and second blades, wherein adjustment of the gap is in a direction perpendicular to the direction of movement between the open and closed positions; and  
a motion translator to translate the direction of motion of the second blade between the open and closed positions with substantially no motion in the direction of the gap.
19. (Original) The can trimmer of claim 18 further comprising a sealed gear housing.
20. (Original) The can trimmer apparatus of Claim 18 wherein the gap is about 8-25% of the thickness of the metal of a can.
21. (Original) The can trimmer apparatus of Claim 18 wherein the gap is about 8-15% of the thickness of the metal of a can.
22. (Original) The can trimmer apparatus of Claim 18 wherein the gap is about 8-10% of the thickness of the metal of a can.

23. (Original) The can trimmer of claim 18 wherein the adjustment mechanism is accessible from the exterior of the apparatus.

24. (Original) The can trimmer of Claim 23 wherein the adjustment mechanism comprises:

- an adjustment screw;
- an adjustment nut; and
- a locking mechanism.

25. (Original) A can trimmer apparatus comprising a housing and a power connection accessible from the exterior of the housing, wherein said power connection is replaceable without opening the housing.

26. (Original) The can trimmer of claim 25 wherein the power connection is a tang.